

311 SPEED LIMIT SIGNING

The standard Speed Limit sign (R2-1) shall be at least 24" by 30" for undivided roadways, 36" by 48" for divided roadways other than freeways, and 48" by 60" for freeways. However, signs installed at the beginning of each reduced speed zone shall be at least 36" by 48" for non-freeways and 48" by 60" for divided roadways and freeways. The sign sizes should be consistent with the MUTCD.

Speed Limit signs shall be located at the points of change from one speed limit to another and near the entrances to the State on numbered routes. Additional signs may be installed beyond traffic interchanges, beyond significant junctions with other State highways, and at other locations where it is necessary to advise motorists of the prevailing speed limit.

Engineering judgment should be exercised when selecting locations in the field for speed limit signing. When topographical constraints are encountered at the recommended location, the sign should be located as close as possible to the recommended location. Sign location tolerances at speed zone breaks shall not exceed 500 feet in rural areas and 250 feet in urban areas. When a speed limit sign that marks the beginning of a speed zone cannot be installed within the tolerance, the Regional Traffic Engineer shall notify the State Traffic Engineer of the location on non-freeways and the Interstate Sign Crew Supervisor shall notify the State Traffic Engineer on freeways for an amended speed regulation.

In rural areas where the posted speed limit is less than 55 mph, the recommended maximum spacing for speed limit signs is found by the formula $S = V/6$. In rural areas where the posted speed limit is 55 mph or greater, the recommended spacing for speed limit signs is found by the formula $S = V/5$, where S is the maximum spacing in miles and V is the posted speed limit in miles per hour.

In urban areas, since traffic conditions vary widely, engineering judgment shall be used to determine the maximum spacing of speed limit signing.

The Speed Reduced Ahead sign shall be installed in advance of each reduced speed zone requiring a reduction in speed of 15 mph or more on non-freeways and in advance of all speed reductions on freeways. The Speed Reduced Ahead sign, when used, should be installed 500 feet to 1000 feet in advance of each speed zone. Shorter distances may be used in or near urban areas where low speeds prevail. In some instances, based on engineering judgment, it may be appropriate to install a Speed Reduced Ahead sign in advance of a speed zone requiring a 5 or 10 mph reduction, such as on the approach to a community from a rural area.

The size of the Speed Reduced Ahead sign shall be at least 36" by 36" for conventional roadways and 48" by 48" for divided roadways and freeways.

Speed Reduced Ahead signs installed on divided roadways and freeways should be placed on both the left and right sides of the roadway.

The Slower Traffic Keep Right sign (R4-3) shall be at least 24" by 30" for undivided roadways, 36" by 48" for divided roadways other than freeways, and 48" by 60" for freeways. The Slower Traffic Keep Right sign should be placed on the median side of the roadway for divided roadways and freeways.